

EUROPEAN MARINE RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES FOR THE NEXT DECADE

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Research infrastructures have been instrumental in the development of new technologies and consequently play an increasing role in the advancement of knowledge, nurturing innovation and new developments in services to the benefit of societies at large. In the last decades, Europe has provided, through the successive framework programmes, the basis for the development of cutting-edge research and technology.

In a joint presentation, Hervé Pero will focus on the European Commission's approach towards the development of the 'Capacities' programme, highlighting generic and multifaceted aspects related to large-scale Research Infrastructures. Activities such as roadmap development and priority setting, long-term financing, stakeholder involvement, communication and commitment at regional and sub-regional level, and the EU strategy towards global Research Infrastructures are part of the vast experience acquired by the Commission in the last decade. The marine scientific community can benefit from this experience for the development of future large-scale marine research infrastructures.

Rudy Herman, who is co-chairing the Commission's dedicated expert group on marine research infrastructures will focus on the gaps and needs related to such infrastructures. The marine scientific community is already very well connected at global level (e.g. ARGO, GOOS, GEOSS) and there are structuring initiatives ongoing at EU-level (e.g. EMODNET). In fact, Marine Research Infrastructures are high on the agenda and there is a need for the marine scientific community to drive all these developments with a view to preparing FP8 and to ensure a prominent place for oceans and seas within the grand challenges.

To investigate the often complex marine systems and human interactions, a broad range of research infrastructures and technologies is needed. Measurements and monitoring are retrieved from a range of fixed and mobile platforms and require a multidisciplinary approach in order to understand the diversity and complexity of marine systems. The contribution will not be restricted to ESFRI projects under development, such as EMSO, ERICON-AB, EURO-ARGO, ICOS, and LIFEWATCH, but will take into account important infrastructures developed through project and networking initiatives at European, regional and sub-regional scale.